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Rural District of North Westmorland



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1959

KENDAL

TITUS WILSON & SON, LTD.

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Kendal 1296.

Stricklandgate House,
P.O. Box 18,
Kendal.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of North
Westmorland.*

SIR, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report upon the health of the Rural District during the year 1959.

I wish to acknowledge the help and ready co-operation of my colleague, the County Medical Officer of Health, and also the assistance afforded to me by the local general medical practitioners.

I am indebted also to the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff for the spirit of teamwork which exists in my department, and for the fund of local knowledge which they have laid at my disposal.

I have the honour to be,

Sir, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK T. MADGE,

Medical Officer of Health.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area of the Rural District in acres ...	...	...	288,688
Population (Registrar-General's mid year estimate)...	...	...	16,250
Inhabited houses ...	...	...	5,201
Rateable Value ...	...	...	£134,718
Product of a Penny Rate ...	...	...	£483
Rate in the Pound levied ...	...	...	15/10d.
of which the County Rate was ...	...	...	13/0d.

The Rural District of North Westmorland lies between the central mountainous mass of the Lake District and the escarpment of the Pennine Chain, and possesses a wide variety of scenery. The main geographical feature of the District is the Eden Valley, a fertile agricultural **strip** which was once the route of a Roman highway and later a strong line of defence against the Border raiders. The River Eden rises in lonely Mallerstang, flows past the market town of Kirkby Stephen to the foothills of the Pennine Range, and thence north-westwards through the ancient Borough of Appleby to its junction with the River Eamont, where it leaves the District.

The country to the north-east rises abruptly to some 2,500 feet, and on the far side the northernmost boundary lies in the desolate area of the Upper Tees Valley. To the south-west of the Eden Valley lies the central upland plateau which extends from Shap to Kirkby Stephen broken only by a few charming wooded valleys and occasional villages. South of this plateau the River Lune flows through pleasant pastoral Ravenstonedale into the austere gorge below Tebay, and the southern boundary of the District is the 2,000 feet high rampart of the great watershed of Westmorland. In the south-west the great barren fells of the Lake District rise to over 3,000 feet above sea level, and in the valleys lie the beautiful lakes of Ullswater and Haweswater. These geographical features determine the natural lines of communication and therefore influence the spread of infectious diseases.

The geology of North Westmorland is also very varied. The escarpment of the Pennine Chain in the north and the central upland mass are formed of lower carboniferous limestone, and the Eden Valley lies between along the lines of the Pennine Fault. The Cross Fell inlier in the Dufton and Hilton areas is a unique formation containing in miniature most of the Lake District rocks, Skiddaw slates, Borrowdale volcanic rocks, Conistone limestone, the Ashgill series, and Silurian strata above which follows the dominating carboniferous series of the escarpment.

The Vale of Eden is composed mainly of permian sandstone, with St. Bees sandstone in the south, with small beds of red shales, gypsum and magnesium limestone. Above and below the Penrith sandstone lie Brockrams and Breccias, and further west some red conglomerate basement beds are found in the Pooley Bridge area. To the south-west the Borrowdale Volcanic series occur, with ashes and breccias often well bedded and cleaved, and the Silurian strata commence south of Shap. A further interesting feature is the outcrop of the Shap granite intrusion through the Borrowdale series near their junction with the thin Coniston limestone beds. Glacial drift remains at several places and the valley bottoms contain alluvial deposits. These geological characteristics are of great significance in the supervision of water supplies, sewerage and occupational diseases as well as affecting the economics of the District.

The climate is equable in the valleys and invigorating on the fellsides and uplands. The air is generally very clear and there is little mist or fog. Temperature gradient inversions are occasional in the mornings. The average rainfall is 73 inches a year in the Haweswater area, and snow may be expected for one or two weeks in the late winter.

The District is primarily agricultural in character and many of the small local industries are ancillary to agriculture. There are also the following industries which provide much local employment and bring a measure of prosperity to the villages:—

Stone Quarries.	Cement Manufactory.
Gypsum Mines.	Plasterworks.
Barytes Mines.	Textile Factories.

In addition to these local industries the District receives seasonal tourist business along the main highways, and in the Lake District areas. The variety of these opportunities for local employment has helped to stop the drift from the countryside and has kept North Westmorland happily free from unemployment, and has provided the economic security and local prosperity which is a most important factor in the maintenance of the public health.

The threatened closure of the Darlington to Penrith railway line is now very much a matter of concern. If the closure take place, about 100 men in the Kirkby Stephen area will become redundant or will be transferred to other districts, and railway employees in other villages in the district will be similarly affected. Your Council have decided vigorously to oppose the closure of the line as they feel that the economy of a large part of the district will be adversely affected if the proposal succeeds.

STAFF.

Name.	Qualifications.	Office.	Whole or Part Time.	Other Offices.
Madge, F. T.	M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health	Part	M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland
Calvert, D.	M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.	Public Health Inspector	Part	Engineer and Surveyor
Hart, G.	M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector	Part	Surveyor
Proud, W. L. C.	A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.	Additional Public Health Inspector	Whole	—
Cradock, N.	—	Clerk and Technical Assistant	Whole	—
Johnstone, E.	—	Clerk to April 1959	Whole	—
Holmes, P. J.	—	Clerk from April 1959	Whole	—
Holliday, M.	—	Clerk	Part	—
Machell, B. M.	—	Clerk to Medical Officer of Health	Part	Clerk to M.O.H. Combined County Districts of Westmorland

Staff Changes.

Miss E. Johnstone, clerk-typist in the Kirkby Stephen Office left to get married in April 1959, and she was succeeded by Miss P. J. Holmes.

COMMITTEES.

The Minister of Health requires me to include a list of your Council's committees which are concerned with matters of public health.

The Public Health Committee deals with most of the principal matters, but there are other aspects of public health importance which are dealt with by the Housing, Water and Licensing Committees.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following extracts are made from information supplied by the Registrar-General, with figures for 1958 for comparison.

Area of the District in acres 288,688

	1958	1959
Estimated civilian population (mid year) ..	16,280	16,250
Live Births. Legitimate— males	132	124
females	138	113
Illegitimate— males	7	12
females	6	3
Total	283	252
Crude Rate per 1,000 population	17.3	15.5
Corrected Rate per 1,000 popula- tion	19.03	17.05
Birth Rate for England and Wales	16.4	16.5
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 population	0.79	0.92
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 live births.	45.9	59.5
Still Births. Legitimate— males	5	2
females	5	1
Illegitimate— males	—	—
females	—	1
Total	10	4
Total (live and still) births ..	293	256
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	34.1	15.6
Rate for England and Wales ..	21.6	20.7

	1958	1959
Deaths. males	119	102
females	91	98
Total	210	200
Crude Rate per 1,000 population ..	12.9	12.3
Corrected Rate per 1,000 population	13.02	12.1
Rate for England and Wales ..	11.7	11.6
Infantile Deaths (under 1 year)		
Total deaths under 1 year.. ..	8	5
Rate per 1,000 live births	28.2	19.8
Rate for England and Wales ..	22.5	22.0
Legitimate	8	4
Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	29.6	16.8
Illegitimate	—	1
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	—	66.6
Neonatal Deaths (under 4 weeks)		
Total neonatal deaths ..	7	5
Rate per 1,000 live births ..	24.7	19.8
Rate for England and Wales ..	16.2	15.8
Early Neonatal Deaths (under 1 week):		
Total early neonatal deaths ..	7	5
Rate per 1,000 live births ..	24.7	19.8
Perinatal Mortality Rate:		
Stillbirths and deaths under		
1 week.. .. .	17	9
Rate per 1,000 total (live and		
still) births	58	31.2
Maternal Mortality:		
Total Deaths	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and		
still) births	—	—
Rate for England and Wales ..	0.43	0.38

Deaths from certain causes:—	1958.	1959.
Cancer 	30	24
Measles 	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough 	Nil	Nil

The main causes of Death were:—

Heart Disease ... ... ... ...	...	...	83
Vascular lesions of nervous system ... ...	...	...	52
Cancer ... ... ... ...	...	...	24

COMMENTARY ON THE VITAL STATISTICS.

The 1951 Census revealed a population of 16,959 persons, which is about a thousand less than in the same area in 1931, equivalent to a net loss of some 6% over the 20 years. It is perhaps even more significant to note that the percentage represents an excess of births over deaths of 7.2% heavily neutralised by a net emigration of 13.1% from your District. In other words North Westmorland has been depopulated faster than even your very brisk birth rate could maintain your numbers. I think that most of the exodus was in the early part of those 20 years, and the 1921 Census figures indicate that the drop cannot all be explained away by the withdrawal of the workmen who built the Haweswater dam. Some steady emigration has been going on for a long time. About 500 of your people go to work each day in Cumberland, mainly in the Penrith area.

I believe that the setting up of a better basis for agriculture in the national economy will check the drift from the countryside, and will encourage your young folk to renew their faith in country life by settling down in their native parts. Only some 55% of the people in Westmorland were born in the County.

A proper perspective cannot be obtained by considering merely one year's changes. It is the general trend of population which is important for the planning of your future housing, water and sewerage requirements, and for the broader issues of the economic prosperity of your District.

Birth Rate.

Your birth rate has generally been above the average for England and Wales, and is still well above your death rate.

Death Rate.

Your corrected death rate was above that for England and Wales, but I attach no significance to the fact.

Infantile and Neo-natal Deaths.

This year's rate was 19.8. Infantile deaths are deaths in children

under the age of one year, and included in this figure are the neo-natal deaths which are deaths in children under the age of one month. This distinction helps to separate the deaths which are due to factors connected with pregnancy, child-birth and abnormal development, which are more likely to cause death within the first month from the factors connected with infant management which are more likely to cause death between one month and one year.

There were five infant deaths in 1959 and all of these were neo-natal deaths. Your infantile death rate has been about the average for England and Wales during the past 10 years. Your figures are too scanty to carry any great statistical significance, but I feel that they reflect a very satisfactory improvement in child-care by the local doctors, nurses and above all, by the young mothers in their homes. I hope that this happy state will continue.

The neo-natal deaths contain what we might call the hard core of "unavoidable" infant deaths. Many of these in the past have been due to prematurity, abnormality, or the result of difficult child-birth. It does not appear likely that science will be able to prevent developmental abnormalities, but there are high hopes that blood tests and the increased availability of obstetrical specialists will help to reduce the number of neo-natal deaths.

Maternal Deaths.

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 143-170.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Part III.

The general incidence of illness can be assessed by the weekly number of new claims for sickness benefit at our local National Insurance offices. A logarithmic graph of those figures shows a regular seasonal pattern over the years, and any variations are usually worth investigating.

Measles was the main feature of 1959. It started very sharply at midsummer around Brough, spread to Kirkby Stephen in the autumn, and flared up in the villages around Appleby in December.

Scarlet Fever was more than usually troublesome around the outskirts of Penrith and Appleby in the spring, with odd cases lingering on at intervals throughout the rest of the year.

It is pleasing to record that the notification of infectious diseases has much improved in recent years, and I am very grateful to my colleagues in general practice for their prompt help in this respect.

I look upon the control of notifiable diseases as one of the most important duties of our department. Patterns of thought change from time to time on these subjects, but the notifications provide the factual basis for controlling the spread of infection.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES TABLE.

	Total	Ages											Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
		-1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-			65-
Measles	144	2	11	12	13	11	80	11	2	1	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	21	-	1	1	1	1	14	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis Infective	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	172	2	14	13	14	12	95	14	2	2	1	2	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis is the most important communicable disease of our time. Its prevention is primarily dependent upon social and economic factors in the general community, and secondarily upon the management of the established case. Your Council’s functions are three-fold; to investigate the source of infection, to prevent the spread of infection, and to remove conditions favourable to infection.

The number of tuberculosis patients on the register at the year end were :—

Respiratory	...	50
Non-Respiratory	...	23
		—
		73
		—

TUBERCULOSIS TABLE.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory		Respira- tory		Non-res- piratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
I ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 ..	—	2	—	I	—	—	—	—
25 ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 ..	—	—	—	I	—	—	—	—
Total ..	4	6	—	2	—	—	—	—

For the first year in recorded history there were no deaths from tuberculosis throughout the whole of Westmorland.

Hospital and Ambulance Arrangements for Infectious Diseases.

National Health Service Act, 1946. Parts II and III.

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is provided by the Regional Hospital Board, Newcastle, at Penrith and Carlisle.

Smallpox cases will be admitted to Langley Park Hospital, Durham City, or to Fairhill Hospital, Penrith.

Ambulance transport for cases of infectious disease is provided by the Westmorland County Council.

Disinfection Arrangements.

On account of the geographic difficulties it is not usually practicable to effect steam disinfection, and reliance has to be placed upon formaldehyde treatment in the house of the patient.

HOUSING.

Under the Housing Acts your Council has a duty to consider the general housing conditions in your District, to ascertain whether any are unfit for human habitation, and to assess the need for further houses. You have powers to deal with unfit houses, powers to provide new houses for all classes, and various powers and duties in the management of your Council's housing estates. Good housing conditions are an integral part of public health.

There were 5,201 inhabited houses on your Rate Books at the end of the year. With an estimated population of 16,250, the average number of persons per house is 3.1, which is not a high figure. Eight houses are legally overcrowded within the strict definition of the Housing Act which assumes that living-rooms are used also for sleeping purposes and that the sexes can be segregated irrespective of age, health and family relationships. At the time of the 1951 Census there were 4,890 private households living in 4,774 structurally separate dwellings.

The great majority of cottage houses and farm-houses are of considerable age and are stone built. Many of these old houses suffer from rising dampness due to the absence of damp-proof courses which cannot be remedied without extensive works in under-pinning. The sound methods of the original construction have ensured that deterioration of the structure is a slow process, but heavy repair costs and low rentals have made housing repairs unprofitable.

General Progress of Slum Clearance and Improvements.

Westmorland as a whole has made very encouraging progress in post-war slum clearance despite all the difficulties of the times. Since

the campaign was resumed in 1948 well over 900 houses in the County have been dealt with by formal action under the Housing Acts. Most of these will eventually be demolished or converted to trade use, but about 15% of them have been reprieved by their owners undertaking to spend considerable money for comprehensive reconditioning up to modern standards. In addition to those formal actions there have been a very creditable number of informal schemes for the renovation of sub-standard houses, either with the aid of improvement grants or entirely by private enterprise. The aim is to save a house wherever possible, but if it cannot be brought up to an acceptable standard of safety, decency and amenity the sooner it is swept away the better.

In your own District good progress continued with slum clearance and was limited to dealing with any Class 5 houses becoming vacant. Every endeavour was made to persuade owners to recondition them if there seemed any possibility of retaining them as dwellings.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, required your Council to declare their proposals for dealing with sub-standard houses. You resolved to deal with the estimated 349 houses within the next fifteen years. The Minister of Housing and Local Government approved that scheme and it is now on deposit for public inspection. You may have to speed up a bit.

Closing Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 18.

11 closing orders were made during the year.

45 such orders were on the Register of Local Land Charges at the year end.

Undertakings not to use for Human Habitation.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

Seven such undertakings were accepted during the year, leaving 41 on the Register of Local Land Charges at the year end.

Undertakings to perform works.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

No such undertakings were accepted during the year.

No such undertakings were outstanding on the Register of Local Land Charges at the year end.

Improvement Grants.

House purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

32 Discretionary grants and 17 Standard grants were approved during

the year. Since the passing of the Act 125 houses have been renovated and converted under discretionary grants made by your Council. A very worthwhile effort.

Demolition Orders.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 16.

No demolition orders were made during the year. Your Council sold the six huts at Burrells, and demolition was in progress at the year end.

No houses subject to operative demolition orders were actually pulled down during the year, leaving 4 demolition orders outstanding on the Register of Local Land Charges at the year end.

Clearance Areas.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 44.

There are no outstanding clearance areas.

Estimated Requirements for New Houses.

Housing Act, 1957. Section 91.

Without a waiting list of applications for Council houses it is guess-work to meet the statutory obligation to assess the local needs.

House Building Progress.

Your Council's Housing Schemes and Progress.

The position at the end of the year relating to houses constructed or in course of construction and sites developed or in course of development since the end of the 1939-45 war was:—

Completed	...	242
Under Construction	...	Nil.

The increase in interest rates on loans and the virtual removal of the housing subsidy for new Council houses for general needs were the main factors responsible for the slowing down of the Council's house building programme. The erection of further Council houses in the immediate future will probably be restricted to slum clearance needs or old peoples' houses.

Although no Council houses were built during the year, your Council have decided to make a new start with a small number of bungalows for older people at Shap and Kirkby Stephen.

Houses Built by Private Enterprise.

Since the war 118 houses have been completed, 13 of which were completed during 1959 and 9 were under construction at the end of the year.

Tenants Selection.

When Council houses become available handbills are posted on village notice boards, inviting applicants and stating whether the house is reserved for agricultural workers. All applicants are supplied with a form for submitting details of their personal circumstances, domestic and financial, to your Council. The applications are considered by your Housing Committee together with any other information which can be supplied by the members of your Council for that area. There is no anonymity and your Housing Committee attach importance to the personal knowledge of your Councillors in making their selection. This system has its advantages as well as its disadvantages. No application list of persons desiring housing is maintained by your Council.

Housing Management.

Your Council now own 424 occupied houses, situated in widely dispersed sites in your extensive District. The housing management is largely in the hands of the Public Health Inspectorate, and every effort is made to inspect the houses at regular intervals to see that the property is kept in good condition.

165 Council houses were built before the 1939-45 war, and many are over 30 years old. The increase in numbers and age of these houses calls for more frequent attention and entails higher maintenance costs.

The rents of your Council houses vary from 4/6d. to 18/-, exclusive of rates, and the rateable values are between £8 and £21. The examination of rentals and rates may not seem at first sight to have much to do with public health, but it does have considerable significance. It is not unknown for persons who have been rehoused from poor quarters into modern Council houses to have to pay their rent and rates from that portion of their income which rightly belongs to the purchase of food. Domestic economy can affect the general standard of the public health almost as much as environmental conditions, and some attempt must be made to maintain a balance between these conflicting factors.

Verminous Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 83-85.

No cases were reported during the year.

Nuisances and Notices re Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 91-100.

During the year there were 39 Informal Notices served under the Act and three Statutory Notices were served.

Certificates of Disrepair.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

No certificates were issued during the year.

Dangerous Buildings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 58.

Action was necessary against three buildings. One was demolished.

Tents, Vans, Sheds and Moveable Dwellings.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 268-269.

There are nine licensed camping sites in the Rural District at Barton School; Clifton; Eamont Bridge; Waterside, Ullswater; Low Moor, Kirkby Thore; Park Foot Farm, Pooley Bridge; Brougham Farm, Brougham; Brownber Hall, Newbiggin-on-Lune; Roe Head, Pooley Bridge.

12 individual camping licences were in force during the year.

Unlicensed camping sites are limited to occasional use and are mainly on the Ullswater Shore or along the banks of the River Eden during the fishing season. These casual campers cause little nuisance by their improvised sanitary arrangements and refuse disposal, but they take water from polluted becks at their own risk.

A more serious nuisance occurs during the June Fair near Appleby and the Brough Fair later in the year. Both these Fairs are held under ancient charters and were once two of the most important horse fairs in England. Horse-drawn caravans, motor-trailers, and tents assemble in hundreds along the roadside and the occupants use the field and hedgerows for all sanitary purposes, leaving after their departure a foul and polluted area.

Some years ago it was hoped that steps would be taken by Appleby Borough to get the Fair concentrated back where it used to be, on Gallows Hill, and there to provide a proper water supply and latrines. Nothing came of the proposal and so the annual nuisances more than overflow within your Rural District. Your Council should consider similar action for the Brough Fair. The ancient charter privileges could be preserved without the unjustifiable and indiscriminate pollution to the District, which at present constitute a danger to the health of both the gypsies and the residents.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply to your District is derived from many sources. The principal source of public supply is that from your regional scheme at Blea Water, the mains from which extend into 25 of your 52 parishes.

Your Council control and maintain 19 other sources of public supply in whole or part of 32 parishes. A portion of your District is dependent upon individual private supplies from wells, springs, or water-courses. Martindale has no public water supply. Many houses in Hartley, Ravenstonedale, and Stainmore are supplied from the private systems installed in these three areas.

The quality of the public supplies is indifferent, as will be seen from the results of laboratory examinations and chemical analyses carried out, which are set out in Appendix "A." I have no official knowledge of the quality of the myriad of private supplies, but I suspect that many of them are unsatisfactory in quality and very variable in quantity. I can do no more than warn the users that they drink it at their own risk, that they should have it tested for purity at regular intervals, and if in doubt they should boil it.

The following is a brief review of the various sources of your Council's public water supplies:—

Regional Scheme.

The source of supply is from Blea Water, which is a small tarn at 1,584 feet O.D. lying in the fell to the west of Haweswater in the catchment area owned by Manchester Corporation. The water is supplied by the owners in bulk to a small reservoir at Harper Hill, whence it falls to your Council's filter-house a short distance below in Swindale. Consumption is about 300,000 gallons per day.

At the filter-house alumina and chalk are added to some of the raw water before it is filtered through Bell's pressure filters. Lime is further added to raise the pH, and the water is chlorinated occasionally. The original intention was that all the water should be filtered, acidity corrected, and chlorinated, and such treatment is most desirable on public health grounds, apart from protecting the mains. However, the engineering difficulties of keeping up pressures in the distant eastern parts of your District have led to partial bye-passing of the Swindale treatment plant. It is now a most unsatisfactory arrangement.

Since the new six-inch main from the Swindale Filter House to Thrimby was put into operation the supply generally to the western part of the district has been very much improved. A further improvement was carried out during the year by laying a new three-inch main from Hackthorpe reservoir to join up with the existing main at Melkinthorpe. This has stimulated the pressure and improved the supply generally in Melkinthorpe, Clifton Dykes and South Whinfell areas.

The supply to the eastern side of the District has continued to be most unsatisfactory and many houses and other properties in the higher parts of the parishes of Wharton, Nateby, Crosby Garrett and Musgrave have, on many occasions, been without water from the mains supply for several days at a time. Every expedient and improvisation for the temporary stimulation of the supply has been carried out, but a situation has been reached when the existing trunk main is incapable of conveying over such a long distance the quantity of water now required.

Your Council have spent many years considering the reports of their officers and consulting engineers suggesting schemes for making the Regional Water System work as it ought to do, and for improving the service. Everyone agrees that a radical re-organisation is needed: the problems are how to do it, and how to pay for it.

Your Consulting Engineer prepared a scheme in 1956 for a ring main to be taken from Swindale out in a wide sweep along the upper reaches of the Lune Valley, to supply the villages on the way and to get the desired volume of water into the eastern parts of your district, leaving the present regional main to cope unhindered with the more westerly parts. The Lune Valley main would have incidentally replaced a series of rather unsatisfactory small supplies along its route. The cost in 1956 was reckoned to be about a quarter of a million pounds.

Worried by the thought of such expenditure, your Council then decided to explore a possibly cheaper alternative of duplicating the existing regional main along its present route from Swindale filter house and extending it out to Kirkby Stephen and Brough. That would have left many problems unsolved in the Lune Valley, but it would have achieved the desired increase in the carrying capacity of the regional trunk mains, overcome the irritating pressure difficulties along the existing route, brought water to the distant ends where it should be; the proposed extensions would have enabled replacement of the present unsatisfactory water supply for Kirkby Stephen, and a welcome addition for Brough. A lot of other villages along its route would have benefited as well. But the cost of that scheme was also thought to be too high.

An economy scheme was then prepared to try to meet the existing demands by limited work on the regional trunk main, without any extensions further east, but your Consulting Engineer advised that it was the least attractive scheme. Your Council were coming to the conclusion at the year end that the Minister of Housing and Local Government should be asked for approval and advice on either the Lune Valley scheme or the duplication of the regional mains.

The submission of those schemes to the Ministry came at a particularly awkward time, because it was then governmental policy to apply increasing force to make all small water undertakings regroup with their neighbours to form Water Boards. The Minister had therefore hardened his attitude against sanctioning any large capital expenditure on small water areas until they had either regrouped or put forward satisfactory reasons why they should not.

During 1959 all the water undertaking authorities of Westmorland met in conference to discuss regrouping, but they were not in favour of doing so voluntarily. Whether they will be forced into it by Ministerial Order remains to be seen. But in the case of North Westmorland Rural District there is the alternative of regrouping with the south-eastern districts of Cumberland. That proposal needs reconsideration.

But irrespective of whether regrouping takes place or not, North Westmorland's regional water system has engineering difficulties which transcend national and local politics, and which are also public health problems. I want to see enough safe water delivered to people's houses.

Of course such schemes cost money. But as long as your Rural District enjoys such a low water rate they can expect only a low standard of service. In this country we undervalue our water: I know of other essential commodities which are delivered to peoples' homes for a few pence per ton. Your Council have a statutory duty to supply the water, so if they go ahead with the necessary schemes they can make it a charge on the consumers. That is certainly what would happen under a Water Board.

Barton Supply.

This source of supply is from springs on Barton Fell which are screened before the water enters the storage reservoir. The parishes supplied are Barton, Sockbridge, Tirril, Yanwath and Eamont Bridge. It is untreated and the quality is fair.

Some shortages occurred during the dry summer months and arrangements were made with the Penrith U.D.C. for a connection to be made at Eamont Bridge, between the Barton supply main and the Penrith U.D.C. main from the Lowther Park Pumping Station. This was in use for a few weeks and enabled a constant supply to be maintained in the Barton area.

Orton Supply.

Supply is upland surface water from Churn Ghyll on Langdale Fell. The water is screened and distributed in the Parish of Orton, with the hamlets of Kelleth, Raisbeck and Greenholme. There is ample

water at the headworks, but the number of consumers served from the three-inch main before it reaches the balancing reservoir east of Orton village causes very little margin to be left for extra demands or leakages, and the higher points on the system suffer from shortage. The quality is fair. The water is not chlorinated.

A by-pass main has been laid at a point below the Knott reservoir in order to make possible the stimulation of the supply to Orton and Greenholme during periods of heavy demand. The general position is that the mains are overloaded and improvement is needed. The proposed Lune Valley scheme would replace this small local system.

Tebay Supply.

The source is the same as that for Orton, and the Parish of Tebay with Langdale and Gaisgill are supplied with the water after screening. The quality is fair. The water is not chlorinated. This small system would be replaced by the proposed Lune Valley scheme.

Shap Supply.

Supply is obtained from upland surface sources at Force Beck. The water is passed through a gravitating slow filter of very doubtful efficiency, and the bacteriological results are very poor on account of animal manurial contamination upstream. The water is not chlorinated.

A small diameter connection has been made between the Shap water main and the four-inch Regional main at the north end of Shap village. This is intended to stimulate the supply to certain houses at the north end of Shap.

A very serious public health problem is developing over the Shap public water supply. Messrs. Colvilles Ltd. propose to open up a large new limestone quarry on the gathering ground. By arrangement with the firm, your Council intend to abandon this local source in favour of serving Shap from the regional trunk main. Meanwhile Messrs. Colvilles have done certain preliminary works on the site which disturb me, because the Shap water passes virtually untreated to the consumers. The scheme for joining Shap up to the regional main seems to be hanging fire very badly, and I can foresee the dangerous possibility that the quarry owners will move a lot faster than we do. The technical difficulties would be very great to install an acceptable emergency chlorination of the Shap source once work really starts in the quarry. I do urge that every effort should be made not to leave Shap without safe water.

Wickersgill Supply.

This is a small private scheme supplying the houses near the Shap Granite Works. This source is upland surface water from a moorland beck and springs in a disused quarry. There is a small reservoir and a sand filter. The bacteriological results are indifferent. The water is not chlorinated.

Kirkby Stephen Supply.

The source is from springs at Cold Keld in Kaber parish. There are settling tanks and screens, and the water is chlorinated before distribution at Kirkby Stephen, Winton and part of Hartley. The quality of the treated water is satisfactory, but filtration is much needed.

This water is very badly discoloured and contains a large amount of suspended matter during periods of heavy rain. The water is objectionable when it is discoloured and many complaints are received from consumers on these occasions. During periods of dry weather the Cold Keld springs are barely sufficient to meet the requirements of the area served.

The prolonged drought during the summer months affected the springs at Cold Keld and the yield was reduced below the daily requirements of the Kirkby Stephen area, and as there is no reservoir for the storage of water at the source, shortages occurred at the higher points of the area. Arrangements were made for the purchase of a surplus Fire Service pump and this was used for many weeks to pump back into the spring chamber surplus water from the Cold Keld Springs which is too low to gravitate into the mains. With this arrangement in operation a fairly satisfactory supply was maintained.

The present source is really very poor. It ought to be abandoned, and indeed it would be replaced by either of your Consulting Engineer's schemes for extending the regional trunk mains. But if it is to have any future by modern standards, the supply needs augmenting and the Cold Keld springs need precipitation and filtration treatment.

Kaber Supply.

This supply comes from a spring on the hills near Rookby in the Parish of Kaber. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the water is variable. It is not chlorinated.

Brough Supply.

The source of this supply is from springs at Thornthwaite in Hillbeck parish, and the distribution is to Hillbeck, Brough and Brough

Sowerby, and part of Stainmore. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality is liable to be poor bacteriologically. The water is not chlorinated.

Bleatarn Supply.

The Bleatarn area of Warcop parish is supplied from a spring near Bleatarn village. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the water is indifferent bacteriologically. It is insufficient during parts of the year to meet the requirements of the Bleatarn area. Most of the farms concerned are milk-producing farms and require good and constant supplies of water for dairying purposes. During the summer months, especially if preceded by a dry and snowless winter, the spring quickly falls off to a mere trickle and several of the properties are then unable to obtain water from the mains. The water is not chlorinated.

Warcop Supply.

A spring near Habergill furnishes the supply in the Parish of Warcop except the Bleatarn area. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the supply is fair. The water is not chlorinated.

Hilton Supply.

A spring on the fells near Scordale supplies the Hilton area of Murton parish. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the water is indifferent. The water is not chlorinated.

Murton Supply.

This source is from a spring on the fells near Murton. There are settling tanks and screens. The bacteriological quality of the water is poor. Mains replacement was carried out during 1953. The water is not chlorinated.

Duften Supply.

The water comes from a spring near Keisley. There are settling tanks and screens. The water is of fair quality. Shortages are acute in dry weather. The water is not chlorinated.

Longmarton Supply.

This is a mixed supply from two sources, one spring on Duften Pike and one spring at Close Houses. There are screens and settling tanks. The Parishes of Longmarton and Crackenthorpe are supplied. The quality of the water is fair. Shortage is experienced in the drought and the supply has to be augmented from Great Rundale Beck, and consumers are warned to boil it before drinking during those periods. The normal source is not chlorinated.

Kirkby Thore Supply.

Springs in Marble Scar in the Parish of Milburn form the source of supply to Kirkby Thore and Milburn. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the water is fair. The supply has to be augmented from a private source at Howgill Castle Farm during the drought. The water is not chlorinated.

Ormside Supply.

The source is a spring at Heights and supplies the Parish of Ormside. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the water is indifferent bacteriologically. The water is not chlorinated.

The spring can not fully meet the needs of the Ormside area during long periods of dry weather, and shortages occur at the hospital and at other of the higher situated properties. The supply is temporarily augmented by means of a small diameter pipe from Heights Farm which is served from the Regional supply, but this is not a satisfactory arrangement.

Temple Sowerby Supply.

The supply comes from a collecting chamber at Newbiggin Mill near Milburn. The source is bad as it is situated in the low-lying pastures very near a watercourse into which your Council drain their Milburn village septic tank not far upstream. I am not satisfied about possible seepage or the chance of occasional flooding with sewage-polluted water. The long-needed chlorination apparatus was installed during 1956 at the Newbiggin reservoir, and since then consistently good bacteriological reports have been obtained.

Newbiggin-on-Lune Supply.

Upland surface water from a beck at Swarth Ghyll forms the supply to the Newbiggin area of the Parish of Ravenstonedale. There are settling tanks and screens. The quality of the water is fair. It is not chlorinated.

Outhgill and Shoregill Supply.

The scheme was installed in 1951. A spring at Well Gill forms the source of a piped supply to both hamlets and works well. The quality is similar to other systems of this type. The water is not chlorinated.

Lowther Park Ancillary Supply.

In 1956 your Council purchased and took over from the Ministry of Works the pumping installation in Lowther Park and operated it to

augment the regional system through Hackthorpe reservoir. About 20,000 gallons of water per day were taken from this source to help maintain supplies in the western areas of North Westmorland Rural District, besides affording a reserve bulk supply for Penrith Urban District to meet their periodical difficulties.

The water is obtained from a shallow well situated near the River Lowther, and is filtered and chlorinated. There were three occasions when bacteriological tests were bad, and as the river is polluted with sewage, it is vitally important that this public water supply should be efficiently chlorinated at all times; otherwise its use will have to be prohibited.

Penrith Urban District Council subsequently took over, on a short term lease, the Lowther Park source, and in their turn afford your Rural District an emergency supply.

General Quality.

The poor and indifferent bacteriological results are, except for the obvious risks at Newbiggin Mill and Lowther Park, due to the upland gathering grounds being grazed by stock with the consequent manurial contamination of the water after rainfall. The bacterial counts fluctuate widely according to climatic conditions, and as most of your public waters are untreated the contamination tends to be a nuisance in laboratory control rather than any particular danger to the consumer. Certain sources, however, require close investigation and supervision against human pollution. Modern standards really require you to provide a sterilised water, and it is by those standards you will be judged by the Minister when regrouping comes under consideration. I think you would be wise to adopt a policy of progressive sterilisation of all your supplies.

General Provision of Baths and Sinks.

The 1951 Census showed that your District held 4,890 households of whom 2,776 had no fixed bath. That means over 56%: rather staggering for the middle of the 20th century.

631 households had no kitchen sink. Only some 12%, but I would like to see an improvement.

General Distribution.

The Minister of Health requires me to state the number of houses and population in each of your 52 parishes with water laid on and with water available from standpipes.

PUBLIC WATER DISTRIBUTION.

Parish	No. of Houses in Parish	No. of Houses with water laid on	No. of Houses supplied from Stand Taps	No. of Houses otherwise supplied
Asby	103	89	—	14
Askham	116	116	—	—
Bampton	128	107	—	21
Barton	83	66	—	17
Bolton	86	84	1	1
Brough	240	228	3	9
Brough Sowerby	30	26	—	4
Brougham	80	69	1	10
Cliburn	60	60	—	—
Clifton	107	107	—	—
Colby	27	27	—	—
Crackenthorpe	29	28	—	1
Crosby Garrett	52	48	—	4
Crosby Ravensworth	177	165	—	12
Dufton	85	65	—	20
Hartley	46	38	5	3
Hillbeck	9	9	—	—
Hoff	61	61	—	—
Kaber	36	32	—	4
Kings Meaburn	42	42	—	—
Kirkby Stephen	575	574	—	1
Kirkby Thore	164	163	—	1
Long Marton	207	203	—	4
Lowther	116	103	1	12
Mallerstang	53	5	—	48
Martindale	43	—	—	43
Milburn	58	50	—	8
Morland	100	97	1	2
Murton	102	85	8	9
Musgrave	52	48	—	4
Nateby	40	37	3	—
Newbiggin	36	35	—	1
Newby	46	46	—	—
Ormside	38	28	—	10
Orton	224	169	—	55
Ravenstonedale	218	69*	12	137
Shap.. ..	390	359	1	30
Shap Rural	61	34	—	27
Sleagill	29	29	—	—
Sockbridge & Tirril	76	76	—	—
Soulby	59	58	—	1
Stainmore	110	—	—	110
Great Strickland	66	60	—	6
Little Strickland	24	22	—	2
Tebay	277	244	—	33
Temple Sowerby	115	112	2	1
Thrimby	15	12	—	3
Waitby	19	17	—	2
Warcop	139	127	—	12
Wharton	10	9	—	1
Winton	65	61	2	2
Yanwath & Eamont Bridge	79	77	—	2
TOTALS ..	5203	4476	40	687

* This does not include the houses supplied from the Ravenstonedale Private Supply.

Proposed Future Water Schemes.

Regional Improvement Scheme.

Since terms are agreed for the acquisition of more water from Mardale it will be possible to extend the Regional supply to further areas in the eastern part of your District. I have already dealt with the various schemes in the earlier part of this section.

A later development envisages the laying of another main from Shap through Appleby and Brough to form with the southern branch a complete ring main which would serve almost the whole of your area. It seems unlikely that the scheme will go forward for some time, and the scheme for linking up the villages under the Pennine escarpment lies dormant. So does the idea of impounding a new source on that side.

For such a scattered rural area we are fairly well watered, and all credit is due to the pioneers who installed our systems. It was no fault of theirs that the mains lack carrying capacity or that the agricultural demand for extra water has leapt up so enormously in the last couple of decades. But we have to look forward rather than backward, and prepare our schemes for improvement. After all we might not be forced into a Water Board.

SEWERAGE.

General Position.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 14.

There is need for improved sewerage in your District. Your progress in the extension of the public water supplies has outstripped the disposal arrangements. Most of the villages are provided with some system of piped or culverted sewers, which may have served well in the past but many are now inadequate for present needs, and in some cases the installation of modern water-closets is delayed by sewerage difficulties. Many of the smaller villages in your District require drastic overhauling and reprovision. My report for 1947 tabulated the 28 sewage disposal works in your District. Many of these works are in poor structural condition and their efficiency is impaired by overloading or decay.

Your Council has made vigorous attempts to remedy the worst areas, and is making quite good progress, in spite of an increasingly unsympathetic attitude of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to give financial grants to help.

Proposed Sewerage Schemes.

Brough.

The scheme for new disposal works and extensions of sewers was approved by the Minister of Health in general principle in 1949, but permission to start was limited to that portion of the scheme which superseded the bad outfall at Waggon House, and which allowed further development of your Council's housing estate. That section was installed by 1952, but the plant could not function properly because it was not getting enough sewage. So the Minister gave permission in 1956 for us to undertake the second stage of the scheme, which was done in the following year. That allowed the obsolete Coltsfield plant to be abandoned, but then the partially built main disposal works had swung to the other extreme and was overloaded. At last, in 1959, the Minister sanctioned a start on the final stages of finishing off the disposal works, and joining up the sewers from Church Brough. We hope that 1960 will see the end of this eleven years' marathon.

Shap.

The final stage of this scheme was completed during 1959. The village now has a comprehensive system of sewers and a modern disposal plant. A welcome improvement to the District.

Temple Sowerby.

Work in connection with this scheme was commenced towards the latter part of the year. The scheme involves the construction of sewage treatment works, pumping stations and certain lengths of new sewer. It is expected that the whole of the work will be completed during the ensuing six months.

Tirril and Sockbridge.

This scheme was completed during 1959. The new sewers and modern disposal works have removed the dangerous pollution from the open beck. A praiseworthy effort.

Askham.

The Minister granted consent, and good progress was made with this scheme during the year. Some of the new sewers were laid and the disposal works were in course of construction at the close of the year. It is expected that the whole of the work will be completed during the early months of 1960.

Hartley.

A scheme for the provision of sewers in this village has been prepared and approved. A tender has been accepted and it is hoped that the approval of the Ministry will be obtained in the near future. The sewage from this village is to be discharged into the outfall sewer from Kirkby Stephen, provision having previously been made at the works to deal with the extra load.

Other Schemes.

At the request of your Council, the Engineers have prepared outline sewage schemes for Milburn, Kirkby Thore, Clifton, and Great Strickland.

Other outline schemes, prepared in past years and now shelved, include Hilton, Soulby, Ravenstonedale, Asby, Bolton, Eamont Bridge, Crosby Ravensworth and Maulds Meaburn, Little Strickland and Morland. A formidable list, but your Council have been making good steady progress since the war.

Existing Sewage Facilities.

The following are brief details of the existing sewage facilities in the district:—

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--|
| 1. Kirkby Stephen | ... | Adequate piped sewers and disposal works. |
| 2. Brough | ... | Piped sewers and incomplete disposal works. |
| 3. Orton | ... | Piped sewers and modern disposal works. |
| 4. Tebay | ... | Piped sewers and modern disposal works. |
| 5. Shap | ... | Piped and culverted sewers, modern disposal works. |
| 6. Pooley Bridge | ... | Piped sewers and old disposal works. |
| 7. Tirril and Sockbridge | | Piped sewers and modern disposal works. |

Most other villages in the district are provided with some form of piped sewers, but in many cases they are unsuitable for the direct reception and conveyance of sewage from water-closets. Public sewage tanks or septic tanks are provided in many of these villages and the effluents are disposed of either by land irrigation or direct to streams.

Maintenance of Sewage Works and Public Conveniences.

One full-time man is employed to attend to the Sewage Disposal Works and Public Lavatories at Kirkby Stephen, and he is also re-

quired to carry out labouring work when necessary in connection with the repair of defective sewers and water pipes at various parts of the District. At other sewage works and public conveniences, part-time employees are used. Generally the part-time employees are unsatisfactory for obvious reasons and much more attention should be given to sewage works and public lavatories in order to prevent the occurrence of nuisances, prevent deterioration of the works and to maintain a good standard of performance. This can only be achieved with a sufficient number of capable full-time staff. The employment of a permanent mobile squad of men to carry out this work would appear to be the best solution for a scattered district of this nature.

Prevalence of Water-closets.

The prevalence of water-closets is largely governed by the availability of adequate water and sewerage. As most of your District is well watered the main deterrent is sewerage, although there has been an increased tendency recently to install septic tanks. It is estimated that less than 25% of the houses outside the larger villages are provided with water-closets. At the time of the 1951 Census your District held 4,890 households, of whom 2,257 (or about 46%) were entirely without a water-closet and another 137 had to share one. Those figures indicate what a long way we have to go.

Conversion to Water-closets.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 47.

There were 61 conversions to water-closets during the year. Your Council made no contributions under this Act, but some were made under improvement grant schemes.

Public Conveniences.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 87.

Your Council provided public conveniences at Kirkby Stephen, Brough, Tebay and Shap. The accommodation is generally sufficient for local requirements but it is inadequate to deal with the seasonal motor-coach traffic.

These coaches present a special difficulty in Kirkby Stephen which is used as a halting point for a very large number of Tyneside-Blackpool vehicles, and the shortage is accentuated by their arrival within a short period of time. Fouling of streets, doorways and yards results.

At Pooley Bridge a similar difficulty arises to a slightly lesser extent when coach parties arrive and the Ullswater Lake Steamers disembark. A new public convenience was completed during 1959 and gave good service.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Areas of Refuse Collection.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 72.

The collection of house refuse by using two mechanical refuse collecting vehicles, each with a squad of three men, has continued throughout the year. Collections are carried out in all parishes with the exception of Martindale, but in the less populous areas the collections are limited to once per month. In Kirkby Stephen, Shap, Brough and Tebay collections are made weekly and in other parts of the District fortnightly.

Two new Dennis Refuse Collection vehicles with bodies of 10 cubic yards capacity have been purchased during the year to replace the two old Dennis vehicles which had bodies of 7 cubic yards capacity. It is intended, with the larger capacity bodies to be able to save on the total mileage to be travelled by reducing the number of journeys to the refuse tips.

The nature of the house refuse now collected continues to increase in bulk by reason of large amount of food, etc., which is now sold in cans, cartons, and packets. There is a reduction in the volume of ashes and similar small matter and this causes difficulty at the tips, due to the absence of adequate covering material in the refuse and on account of the large amount of paper and cardboard which is liable to get blown about and cause unsightly conditions about the tips.

Refuse Disposal.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 76.

Controlled tipping is the aim of the Council, but it is difficult to obtain sufficient covering material and labour to keep the tips in proper condition.

Refuse is disposed of by tipping at the following points:—

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Stamp Hill, Kirkby Thore. | 5. Great Strickland. |
| 2. Gallansey Road, Soulby. | 6. Clifton Dykes. |
| 3. Langton Road, Warcop. | 7. Kings Meaburn. |
| 4. Orton Fell. | 8. Fell East of Tebay. |

Street Cleansing.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 77.

Street cleansing is carried out by the Westmorland County Council in the larger villages, and these are usually maintained in good order.

Extra street cleansing has been carried out at Kirkby Stephen on Sundays during the summer due to the large amount of litter resulting from the coach traffic.

Pest Control.

The Council's Clerk of Works, Mr. T. Taylor, continues to function as Pests Officer under the control of the Health Inspectors. The treatment of the refuse tips and sewage works for the destruction of rats is carried out on one or two occasions during the year. The treatment of private houses and other properties is carried out by the Council when requested by the persons responsible, and the costs in these cases are recovered. The Council's refuse tips are regularly treated.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

General Powers.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 87.

Your Council bear most of the statutory responsibility for safeguarding the public from foodborne diseases. The main aim is directed towards securing proper and hygienic conditions for the manufacture, preparation and sale of food. The secondary aim is to trace and localise any outbreaks of disease which may occur in spite of preventive measures.

Precautions against Contamination.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 13-15.

Food hygiene is steadily improving throughout your area. Public opinion is well ahead of the law and most traders are aware of the fact. The good food trader does not need official instruction in basic cleanliness or the enforcement of legal minimum standards. He may welcome advice on technical problems, but his aim is how high he can get, not how low he can get away with.

We have now passed the stage of educational approach. A small minority of food traders have remained untouched by years of hygiene propaganda, unmoved by conscience, and unwilling to believe that the law need apply to them as they pursue their unsweet ways. They are being dealt with in no uncertain fashion whenever they are reported.

The responsibility for safe food does not rest entirely with the trader as the housewife must play her part as well. Quite a lot of strange things happen to food between the shop counter and the dinner plate, and the educational campaign has had to be carried into the home. Foodborne diseases, mild dysenteries and attacks of diarrhoea and vomiting are not infrequent in our homes and among our visitors. I am confident that higher standards will reduce these preventable diseases.

Special efforts have been made during the year to visit as many food premises as possible for the purpose of carrying out inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 49 visits were made and seven Informal Notices were issued and most of these had been complied with at the end of the year.

Ice-Cream Trade.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947.

The following premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:—

Manufacture by hot mix, cold mix, storage and sale	...	0
Manufacture by cold mix, storage and sale	... ..	2
Storage and sale only	... ..	60

Prepared Meats.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16.

The number of premises on the Register for the preparation of sausages, potted meat, preserved meat, pressed meat, and pickled foods, was 26. Informal Notices have been issued regarding certain alterations and improvements.

Registration of Milk Distributors and Dairies which are not Dairy Farms.

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1959.

Total number of registered Distributors	...	...	...	9
„ „ Dairies	...	...	...	3

Cleanliness of Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

No samples of milk were taken during the year for cleanliness tests.

Pathogenic Organisms in Milk.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

No samples were taken. With the eradication of bovine tuberculosis it seems likely that the next milkborne disease to be tackled will be brucellosis. I believe that many human cases go unrecognised.

It was not necessary during the year to stop any milk supply or restrict the activities of milk handlers under the Milk and Dairies Regulations on account of infectious disease.

Designated Milks.

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations.

Your District Council is responsible for the granting of dealers' and supplementary annual licences for the sale of designated milks. Six dealers' licences and five supplementary licences were granted during the year.

Slaughterhouses.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Part IV.

Your Council have adopted a policy of licensing small private slaughterhouses. From the point of view of efficient control and inspection of meat in such a scattered area it can only be regarded as a retrograde and regrettable step. It is, of course realised that many difficulties would arise in the establishment and management by the Council of central abattoirs in a district of this nature, but a workable scheme of centralised slaughtering would not appear to be beyond the bounds of possibility, and the advantages to the public health of the community would seem more desirable than individual trade interests. Centralised slaughtering worked very well between 1940 and 1954.

At the end of the year slaughterhouse licences had been granted in respect of the following premises:—

Fletcher Hill, Kirkby Stephen.
Bridge End, Church Brough.
Musgrave Lane, Soulby.
Oak House, Ravenstonedale.
Ash House, Kirkby Thore.
Langton Field, Appleby.
Front Street, Orton.
Main Street, Shap.
Back Lane, Kirkby Stephen.

Before granting the licences, every effort was made to obtain desirable improvements to the premises and the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, were regarded as a minimum standard.

The introduction of private slaughtering at so many widely separated points has added very considerably to the difficulties of meat inspection, and much of the Inspectors' time is now taken up by this work.

Notifications of slaughter, as required by the Public Health (Meat) Regulations are in operation, and after some initial difficulties appear to be working satisfactorily.

Condemnation of Meat at the Abattoir.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The following is a summary of the carcasses inspected and condemned in whole or in part:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	379	137	2,809	403
Number inspected ..	379	137	2,809	403
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	7	1
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	140	56	145	17
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	36.93%	40.87	5.41%	4.46
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>				
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticerosis:</i>				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—

Every effort is made to ensure a 100% inspection of all meat, but it is possible only in a few cases for the Inspectors to be present at the time of slaughter; that is unfortunate but unavoidable, and it is the public who have to bear the risk. Unless the staffing difficulties in the department are soon eased it may be necessary to abandon inspection of some of the meat.

The whole issue will be brought to a head next year when the new laws will force the meat traders to decide whether to spend large sums of money to bring these tiny private slaughterhouses up to the new very stringent standards for buildings, equipment and practice. Their alternative will be to organise more centralised slaughtering in properly designed places. The writing is on the wall.

Condemnation of Other Foods.

The following other foodstuffs were condemned:—

Canned Ham	...	...	...	...	...	48 lbs.
„ Luncheon Meat, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
„ Milk	...	...	...	...	...	13½ lbs.
„ Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	21 lbs.
„ Fish	...	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
„ Fruit, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	21½ lbs.
„ Soups	...	...	...	...	...	3 lbs.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.

The Minister of Health requires me to describe the current methods for the disposal of condemned food. In this District it is by burial.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Your Council employs one Chief Public Health Inspector and two Additional Public Health Inspectors. The salary is apportioned between the health inspection duties and other duties in a proportion approved by the Minister of Health.

The Chief Inspector is located at the Council Offices in Kirkby Stephen, and the senior of the two Additional Inspectors is located at Shap. The third Inspector assists where he is required from time to time.

The Chief Inspector has the assistance of one female clerk and one male clerk and, in addition to being responsible for the whole Rural District, he has personal charge of the Eastern Division which represents that portion of your District which was East Westmorland before the boundary alteration in 1935.

The Second Inspector has an office in Shap and has the assistance of one part-time female clerk. He is responsible to the Chief Inspector for carrying out the Council's duties in the Western Division which represents the old Shap Urban District and Shap Rural District and the West Ward.

I recommend once again the centralisation of administration within your area. The divided control is a bad relic of the fusion of the Districts which took place in 1935, and if the unification is to be made an effective unit of Local Government it must be a union in spirit and body as well as in name. Now that the Clerk's Department have moved to Appleby, there is a threefold division of your Council's administration.

The imposition of delegated functions under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947 remains an additional burden on the Health Department Staff. What makes matters even worse is that their water engineering duties take up an inordinate amount of time with the perpetual breakdowns and complaints in our overstrained undertaking. There is far too little time left now for our public health inspectors to get on with their proper duties of public health inspection. Their own health is suffering trying to do it, and unless the situation is to deteriorate into mere lip service to public health work some re-organisation is essential. Either more staff or transfer of functions are among the obvious answers. Perhaps water regrouping may focus attention on much needed reorganisation. Meanwhile all your staff keep up a valiant effort to cope.

Inspections Made and Notices Served.

	Number of In- spections	Informal Notices Served	Informal Notices Comp. with	Statutory Notices Served	Statutory Notices Comp. with
Houses (P. H. Act) ..	887	25	19	2	1
Houses (Housing Act)	135	—	—	—	—
Factories	61	2	2	—	—
Shops, Cafes, Hotels	57	9	9	—	—
Slaughterhouses ..	834	—	—	—	—
Schools	3	—	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases ..	47	—	—	—	—
Dairies	6	2	2	—	—
Water Supplies ..	569	1	1	1	1
Moveable Dwellings etc.	70	—	—	—	—
Council's Works ..	392	—	—	—	—
Building Byelaws ..	394	—	—	—	—
Pest Destruction ..	14	—	—	—	—
Drains	496	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous ..	618	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	4583	39	33	3	2

Factory Inspections.

Premises.	Number of Premises.	Number of		
		Inspection.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	8	3	—	—
Factories not included in (1), in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	61	58	2	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	69	61	2	—

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which Defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	3	3	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	1	—

Offensive Trades.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 107.

There are no offensive trades in the District.

Factories.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 69 factories in your District, eight are non-mechanical factories and 61 are provided with power.

One out-worker was notified to your Council by factory owners.

There are no recognised basement bake-houses in the District.

H.M. Inspector of Factories has been sent details of your Urban District's administration of the relevant sections of Parts I and VIII of the Factories Act, 1937.

Shops Act, 1950.

49 visits were made under the Shops Act for the supervision of sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, and the maintenance of suitable temperature. These duties are not adequately covered at present due to the prior claims of other work, but it is hoped to increase the supervision. Informal Notices were served whenever any contraventions were observed.

Common Lodging Houses.

Public Health Act, 1936. Part IX.

There are no registered common lodging houses in the area.

Rent Restriction Acts.

No certificates were issued during the year and no contraventions regarding rent book entries were found.

Smoke Abatement.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 101-106.

No action was required.

Swimming Baths.

There are no contained public swimming baths, but many places on the lakes and rivers are used at the bathers' own risks.

Public Mortuary and Post-mortem Room.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 198.

Your Council provide and operate a modern public mortuary at Shap. It is reasonably satisfactory for that limited purpose, and it is not intended for post-mortem examinations.

Your Council also share, with Appleby Borough Council and Westmorland County Council, some premises in Appleby which have long been used as a public mortuary and occasionally as a public post-mortem room. Your two County District Councils are responsible for operating and maintaining it: the Westmorland County Council merely retain a share in the bricks and mortar.

The mortuary at Appleby had been allowed to deteriorate into a poor condition, and there were also a lot of other unsatisfactory features in its operation, so I advised all parties during 1959 that it would be better to shut down the service if it could not be run with proper decency and efficiency. That led to the prompt reconditioning and redecoration of the place, a reorganisation of its administration, and the prohibition of its further use as a post-mortem examination room. There were still some important points outstanding for settlement at the year end concerning the detailed operation of the service.

I believe that public mortuaries should be conducted with a very high standard of cleanliness, decency and reverence, and shall be satisfied with nothing less.

Laboratory Service.

Public Health Act, 1936. Sections 196.

Satisfactory laboratory facilities were available at Kendal and Carlisle for all public health purposes, free of charge to the Local Authority and the patient. This encourages the use of modern diagnostic methods by general practitioners and your Health Department.

Most of the public health investigations are in process of being transferred to the Public Health Laboratory Services at Carlisle and Preston, to relieve the burden on the hospital laboratories.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47.

One case in Temple Sowerby was almost on the point of meriting an application to the Courts for compulsory removal to hospital. Fortunately we were able to persuade the person to go there voluntarily.

Several other individuals were visited for consideration during the year. Such cases are extremely distressing to deal with and the course of compulsory removal is reserved to meet the emergencies of a last resort when all other methods of help have failed. Sometimes it is very hard to decide what is really in the best interests of the patient.

Byelaws.

Byelaws on public health matters are in force with regard to:—

New Buildings	Tents, vans and sheds.
Prevention of waste, misuse and contamination of water.	
Food handling.	

New Legislation.

The Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958, became operative on 1st January, 1959.

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958, became operative on 1st January, 1959.

The Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

The Housing (Underground Rooms) Act, 1959.

APPENDIX "A". **Laboratory Examination of Public Water Supplies.**

Nature of Test			Standards Max.	Barton	Blea Tarn	Bleawater Raw	Bleawater Treated	Brough
Pr. Coli count 37°	..	..	3-10	0	0	0	0	0
Faecal Coli/strep	..	..	0					
Character	..	..	—	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Yellow tinged
Reaction	..	..	—	6.0 less than	6.5	7.0 less than	8.5 less than	7.5 less than
Ammonical Nitrogen	..	..	.041	.02 less than	.02	.02	.02	.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	.066	.02	.02	.03	.02	.14
Total Solids	..	..	1000	54	227	23	41	104
Hardness	Total	..	300	31	107	19	18	70
	Carbonate	..	—	8	74	5	3	36
	Non-Carb...	..	—	23	33	14	15	34
Chlorides	..	..	30	6	10	4	4.5	7.0
Nitrates	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	—
Nitrites	..	..	0	—	—	—	—	—
O ₂ Absorbed	..	..	1	.22	.26	.48	.3	4.0
Heavy Metals	..	..	0	0	n/s	n/s	0	n/s
Rainfall 24 hours	..	..	—	Nil	Medium	Nil	Slight	Medium
Date Sampled	..	..	—	20.4.59	3.3.59	20.7.59	17.2.59	24.2.59
Laboratory	..	..	—	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle

Nature of Test			Coupland Beck	Dufton	Hilton	Kaber	Kirkby Stephen	Kirkby Thore ex. Marble Scaur
Pr. Coli count 37°	..	..	0	0	0	30 +	0	180 +
Faecal Coli/strep	..	..				
Character	..	..	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction	..	..	7	7.0	7	7	7	7.5
Ammonical Nitrogen	..	..	less than .02	less than .02	less than .02	less than .02	less than .02	.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	less than .02	less than .02	less than .02	.05	.08	.07
Dissolved Solids	..	..	139	117	122	120	253	245
Hardness	Total	..	60	68	60	105	74	112
	Carbonate	..	29	33	16	50	55	37
	Non-Carb...	..	31	35	44	55	19	75
Chlorides	..	..	7.0	6	7	9.0	8.0	6.5
Nitrates	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nitrites	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
O ₂ Absorbed	..	..	12	.04	.04	.52	4.5	.28
Heavy Metals	..	..	n/s	0	n/s	n/s	n/s	n/s
Rainfall 24 hours	..	..	Snow	Slight	Slight	Nil	Nil	Heavy
Date Sampled	..	..	11.2.59	21.4.59	2.4.59	14.4.59	14.4.59	28.4.59
Laboratory	..	..	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle

Chemical analyses results are expressed in parts per million.
n/s — not significant

APPENDIX "A". **Laboratory Examination of Public Water Supplies—contd.**

Nature of Test			Kirkby Thore ex. Newbiggin Mill	Long Marton	Maller- stang	Murton	Newbiggin- on-Lune	Ormside
Pr. Coli count 37°	..		0	7	5	0	0	0
Faecal Coli/strep	..			+	+			
Character	..	..	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction	..	..	6.5	7.0	7.5	6.0	7.0	7.0
Ammonical Nitrogen	..		.02	less than .02	less than .02	less than .02	less than .02	less than .02
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..		.02	less than .02	.02	less than .02	less than .02	.02
Total Solids	..		120	57	133	36	77	482
Hardness	{ Total		67	34	71	21	32	266
	{ Carbonate..		24	7	46	5	2	187
	{ Non-Carb...		43	27	25	16	30	79
Chlorides	..	..	9	4.5	3 3	6.5	3.5	7
Nitrates	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nitrites	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—
O ₂ Absorbed	..	..	.18	.32	1.2	.04	.7	.02
Heavy Metals	..	..	0	0	0	n/s	n/s	n/s
Rainfall 24 hours	..		Heavy	Heavy	Slight	Slight	Slight	Medium
Date Sampled	..	..	28.4.59	28.4.59	17.2.59	21.4.59	17.2.59	3.3.59
Laboratory	..	..	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle

Nature of Test			Orton	Shap	Tebay	Warcop	Wickersgill
Pr. Coli count 37°	..		11	14	0	0	0
Faecal Coli/strep	..		+	+			
Character	..	..	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear	Clear
Reaction	..	..	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.0	7
Ammonical Nitrogen	..		less than .02	.02	less than .02	less than .02	.02
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..		.04	.05	.05	less than .02	.05
Dissolved Solids	..	..	46	168	50	212	99
Hardness	{ Total		40	90	36	90	30
	{ Carbonate..		29	54	30	49	13
	{ Non-Carb...		11	36	6	41	17
Chlorides	..	..	5.0	4	6	7	4.5
Nitrates	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
Nitrites	..	..	—	—	—	—	—
O ₂ Absorbed	..	..	.8	1.0	.8	.02	.8
Heavy Metals	..	..	0	0	n/s	n/s	n/s
Rainfall 24 hours	..		Medium	Slight	Medium	Medium	Moderate
Date Sampled	..	..	24.2.59	16.2.59	24.2.59	3.3.59	21.9.59
Laboratory	..	..	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle	Carlisle

Chemical analyses results are expressed in parts per million.
n/s — not significant.

